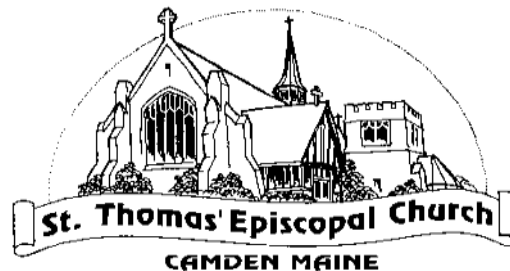


ST. THOMAS' Tidings

Sunday, December 9, 2018

The Second Sunday of Advent

We welcome all who enter these doors, especially those who enter for the first time or after a long absence. Everyone is welcome! All are welcome to receive the Bread and Wine at this altar. **Members of our prayer ministry are available in the Chapel during Holy Communion to pray with you about any need or thanksgiving.**



The Rev. Lisa Smith Fry, Rector
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Stewardship Reminder

Thank you all who have sent in their Stewardship cards to support Christ's mission through St. Thomas' Church. Please contact the Parish Office (236-3680 or admin@stthomascamdenme.org) if you have not received the Stewardship brochure. Stewardship brochures are also in the Sun Room and the Narthex.

Our In-Gathering Sunday is this week and we hope you will remember that without your financial support St. Thomas would not be able to accomplish its very important mission to our parishioners and our community. Your support, regardless of what you are able to give, is truly appreciated.

Everything is possible for him who believes. (Mark 6:23)

Rector's class to discuss Bishop Candidates for the upcoming election.

Rev Lisa's class about Phyllis Tickle and the Great Emergence has been postponed until Lent due to technical (and other) issues. **The Rector will be teaching a two week class beginning Sunday the 9th of December on the Bishop Candidates for the upcoming Electing Convention.** There are 5 candidates: two male and three female, from a diverse set of backgrounds. Come and hear them speak in short video clips, and read their resumes as we discuss the future of the Episcopal Church in Maine. All are welcome!

Christmas Flowers

Christmas flower donations are now being accepted. These can be in memory of a loved one or in honor of or in thanksgiving for someone or something. Specially marked envelopes have been placed in the pew racks for your use.

From Your Treasurer

As we come to the end of the year, I wanted to share some much overdue financial information with you. As we con-

tinue to keep our expenses in-check and our parishioners continue to generously support St. Thomas', our financial situation is healthy. We hope to end the year with small surplus.

The Christmas Fair was a wonderful event. I am pleased to report that our preliminary estimate of our gross proceeds are nearly \$3,000. About 200 people purchased something – a Christmas ornament, a baked good, jewelry, etc. If we add the Summer Fair gross proceeds of almost \$5,000, our fairs raised approximately \$8,000...thank you all who tirelessly worked to make both fairs such wonderful events.

This week I sent out Pledge Statements (again, much overdue!). If you think you should have received one and did not, please send me an e-mail (treasurer.stthomascamden@gmail.com).

If anyone would like information regarding their total donations for the year or any other information regarding St. Thomas' finances, please contact me, as well.

Thank you all for your continued support of St. Thomas'.

Advent Blessings,
Terry Mello
Treasurer

Christmas Fair

A huge thank you to all the bakers, crafters, gift and ornament gatherers, jewelers, music makers, money counters, cocoa makers and crèche raisers at our Christmas Fair!! The spirit of the season is certainly alive and well in our community of faith.

Elizabeth Moran

...And a big thank you from the Rector

I would like to take a moment to thank all those who were involved in the Fair. We had people in charge of specific tables, people in charge of raffles, people in charge of set up and clean up, then we had people involved in communicating the event on Facebook and in the paper, the

financial people who rang up the purchases, coffee, tea and goodies vendors, our creche raising team—and steering the ship, making sure it all happened was the team of Pat Ayers and Elizabeth Moran. Congratulations to them and to all of you! Can't wait until next year's Christmas Fair! God bless you all! Lisa+

Children's Pageant

Exciting news! There will be a children's pageant again this year during the December 24th Christmas Eve Service at 4.30pm. Rehearsals are in progress during the Sunday school classes at 9-10 am and continue every Sunday leading up to Christmas. For further information about the pageant and rehearsals, please contact Rachel Bickham at troyandrachelb@hotmail.com.

"Blue" Christmas service

Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Rockland, ME is adding a new service to its Christmas programming this year. It will be a "Blue" Christmas service designed to reach those for whom the holiday season is a difficult time of year. It may be a hard time of year because of the loss of a family member, the loss of a job, the loss of a partner, sickness, depression, loneliness- or a host of other things which make this season painful. The message of the service: Christ's light coming in to the world. Appropriately, the service will be held on the darkest night of the year: December 21 at 7:00pm. This is an ecumenical service and open to all.

Lessons and Carols service December 30

There will be a traditional service of Christmas lessons and carols as the Ministry of the Word part of the service on the Sunday following Christmas. George Bickham will read a story by Paul Harvey at the sermon time, and the service will conclude

with a Eucharist. Look for more information in the upcoming *Chapter and Verse*.

Today's Music

December 9, 2018, Advent 2

Our entrance hymn, *Savior of the nations, come!* is the earliest hymn (1523) written by **Martin Luther** (German, 1483-1546). Luther's hymn is a pretty close translation of the even earlier Fourth Century text, *Veni redemptor gentium* by **Ambrose** (340-397). Luther also very creatively took the plainchant tune to *Veni redemptor gentium* and effectively created what became the German Lutheran chorale. We have this plainchant at Hymn # 55, so you can compare them. At communion I play a piece based on this tune by **Dietrich Buxtehude** (Danish, 1637-1707). It is said that J. S. Bach walked 200 miles to hear Buxtehude play. For the postlude I play a piece also based on this tune by **Johann Sebastian Bach** (German, 1685-1750).

The sequence hymn is the lively *Comfort, comfort ye my people*, a meditation on Isaiah 40:1-8. We do not get to hear this familiar, *comforting*, text during Advent for this Year C so we'll sing it. The bouncy music we sing was probably written by **Louis Bourgeois** (Paris, 1510-1561) for Psalm 42 in the 1551 publication of the psalms he edited. In the German Lutheran tradition this same melody was associated with the text *Freu Dich sehr, O meine Seele*: today's sumptuous prelude by **Sigfrid Karg-Elert** (German, 1877-1933) is based on this tune. The hymn we sing during communion, *What is the crying at Jordan?* is a contemporary text written by **Carol Christopher Drake**, while a choir member at St. Mark's Church in Berkeley, California. In 1961, **Margaret and Norman Mealy** matched this text with a Gaelic tune, *Dánta Dé*, for their children's songbook, *Sing for Joy*.

The Choir sings the lively Advent anthem, *Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth*, with a text once again by **Ambrose** and translated by J.M. Neale. **Mark Schweizer** (American, b. 1956) who composed this arrangement, is an American church musician, composer, writer and music professor. The tune, *Puer nobis nascitur*, is from a 15th Century manuscript from Trier. We have two different forms of it in

our hymnal: #98 which is closest to the original manuscript and #124 and #193 which are derived from the 1609 adaptation by **Michael Praetorius** (1571-1621). Schweizer has put together a three-part anthem (Sopranos, Altos, Men) in Praetorius' style.

May all this rich Advent music guide you on your path this week.

Jane Schroeder, Minister of Music

Prayer List

Please pray for those members of this parish and others who are in special need: Marya Allen, Ron, Andrew, Joanne Scott, Tiffany Andrews, Seana Roubinek, Pat Olds, Carolyn Morris, Janan Vaughn, Rosalind Clarke, Amy, Gordon Gushee, Susan, Martha, Jean Harper, Abby Neal, Mary, Jeremiah Swett, Dustin, Maxine, Katherine Davis, Ruth, Gwen.

This Sunday

December 9, 2018

Second Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5:1-9

Canticle 16

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

7:30 am: Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Lisa Smith Fry; **Eucharistic Minister:** Pam Bardon; **Lectors:** JoAnne Ryan, Terry Mello; **Prayers of the People:** Edmund Hartt; **Usher:** Paul Holman

10:00 am: Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Lisa Smith Fry; **Crucifer:** Will Robbins; **Eucharistic Minister:** Roy Gilley; **Lectors:** Millie Crocker, Kathryn DesMarderosian; **Prayers of the People:** Bill Freeman; **Acolytes:** Lily Robbins; **Ushers:** Joan Bennett, Bill Freeman

Next Sunday

December 16, 2018

Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Canticle 9

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

7:30 am: Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Lisa Smith Fry; **Eucharistic Minister:** JoAnne Ryan; **Lectors:** Pam Bardon, Paul Holman; **Prayers of the People:** Sandy Lyle; **Usher:** Edmund Hartt

10:00 am: Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Lisa Smith Fry; **Crucifer:** Kavan Kibler; **Eucharistic Minister:** Jacqueline Recht; **Lectors:** Chris Glass, Roy Gilley; **Prayers of the People:** Millie Crocker; **Acolytes:** Kingston Kibbler, Tom Colburn; **Ushers:** Dean Jackson, Phil Groman

What's Where

Our Sunday School and Nursery rooms are located past the sun room. Turn right. The *Blue Room* is the Nursery & *Godly Play*; the *Yellow Room* is the *God, the Bible and Me* classroom. Restrooms are located down the right aisle, past the Chapel, at the end of the corridor on the left side. Additional rest rooms are located in the basement (down the same corridor, via the stairway on your left). The Conference Room is past the sunroom, take the right corridor to the end and turn left.

Calendar

Sunday, December 9

Second Sunday of Advent

In-Gathering Sunday

7:30 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite I

8:30 am—Choir Rehearsal

9:00 am—Christian Education Classes

10:00 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite II

(Coffee Hour follows)

5:15 pm—Centering Prayer—Chapel

6:30 pm—AA meeting—Basement

Monday, December 10

6:30 pm—AA meeting—Parish Hall

Tuesday, December 11

2:00 pm—Staff Meeting

5:00 pm—Vestry Meeting

6:30 pm—AA meeting—Basement

Wednesday, December 12

9:30 am—Eucharist Service with Healing—Chapel

10:15 am—Fellowship—Conference Room

11:00 am—Bible Study—Conference Room

4:00 pm—EFM—Conference Room

6:30 pm—AA meeting—Basement

7:00 pm—VoXX

Thursday, December 13

5:00 pm—Choir

6:30 pm—AA meeting—Basement

Friday, December 14

6:30 pm—AA meeting—Basement

Saturday, December 15

11:00 am—Loaves and Fishes—

St. Peter's in Rockland

6:30 pm—AA meeting—Basement

Sunday, December 16

Third Sunday of Advent

7:30 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite I

8:30 am—Choir Rehearsal

9:00 am—Christian Education Classes

10:00 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite II

(Coffee Hour follows)

5:15 pm—Centering Prayer—Chapel

6:30 pm—AA meeting—Basement

Meetings and Events are subject to change. St. Thomas' welcomes the use of its facilities for meetings and events. Please contact the Parish Office before scheduling any event. A detailed building calendar can be viewed in the office copier room.